

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the current application. Claims 1 and 13 are independent claims.

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference sign Element 227 in Fig. 2, which is not mentioned in the description. Applicant have amended the specification to more accurately describe Element 227. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Specification Objection

The disclosure has been objected to due to minor informalities. By this Amendment, Applicants then have addressed minor informalities, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 13, 15, 16 and 27 stand objected to due to minor informalities. By this Amendment, Applicant has revised claims 13, 15, 16 and 17. Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these claim objections.

35 U.S.C. 103 Zavoli in view of Power

Claims 1-8, 10-23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zavoli in view of Power. Applicant respectfully traverses this art grounds of rejection.

Initially, Applicant agrees with the Examiner that "Zavoli does not teach the ability to detect pauses in speech" as recited on page 4 of the Office Action. However, the Examiner further alleges that Power discloses this feature. Applicant disagrees.

Power discloses a method of speech recognition with sequence parsing, rejection and pause detection options. Power discloses pause detection between words. For example, Power discloses a pause detector 37, arranged to detect the pause following the end of the word, so as to enable the parser 35 to output a word recognition signal (see column 4, lines 64-66) (Emphasis added).

The Examiner relies on this passage to allege that Power discloses "detecting a natural pause between input subgroups", as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Applicant submits that subgroups of speech units are not individual words. Power deals exclusively with pauses between words. Therefore, Power does not teach or suggest "detecting a natural pause between input subgroups" as recited in independent claim 1 and "a detector for detecting a natural pause after receiving the subgroup" as recited in independent claim 13 (Emphasis added). Withdrawal of the rejection for at least this reason is kindly suggested.

Claims 2-8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-27, dependent upon independent claims 1 and 13, respectively, are allowable over Zavoli and/or Power at least for the reasons given above with respect to independent claims 1 and 13.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

Claims 9 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Zavoli in view of Power, and further in view of Larsen.

Applicant respectfully traverses this art grounds of rejection.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner, that "neither Zavoli nor Power teach the ability to enter speech units using a dial pad upon repeated recognition errors" as recited on page 11 of the Office Action. However, even if Larsen were to disclose this particular feature of claims 9 and 24, which Applicant submits it does not, Larsen does not teach or suggest the recited detection of a natural pause between input subgroups (or after the subgroup absent in both) Zavoli and Power, as discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 13.

As such, claims 9 and 24 are allowable over any of Zavoli, Power and/or Larsen at least for the reasons given above with respect to independent claims 1 and 13. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

CONCLUSION

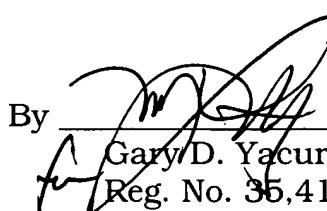
Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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